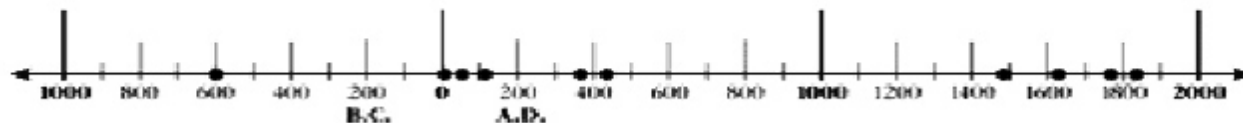


# The Stick of Joseph: another Testament of Jesus Christ



## "The Things Which I Saw While I Was Carried Away in the Spirit"

Lesson 4

### Introduction

#### Refer to the time line:

Match the dots on the time line with the event that happened on each date. All but two of the following events on the time line list were in the Tree of Life Dream.

- Lehi led his family to the Promised Land. (B.C. 600)
- Jesus Christ was born (about B.C. 01)
- The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ (A.D. 33)
- The Great Apostasy (approx A.D. 100 through A.D. 1800)
- The final battle between the Lamanites and the Nephites (about A.D. 385)
- Moroni hides the plates. (about A.D. 425 - not in vision)
- The discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus (A.D. 1492)
- Settlers came to the Promised Land to worship God (A.D. 1607-1620+)
- Colonists break away from mother land with the help of God. (A.D. 1776)
- The Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ (A.D. 1820-present)

Nephi saw these events and others in his vision of the future.

Share appropriate experiences that relate to the scriptural principles with others by bearing testimony, writing in your journal or in other ways as prompted by the Spirit.

### Nephi sees the future of his descendants and his brothers' descendants. (1 Nephi 12)

- How did Nephi describe the conditions on the earth that would precede the Savior's visit to America? (1 Nephi 12:1-6.)
- How were these conditions similar to the conditions that will precede the Savior's Second Coming? (Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:27-37.)
- How did Nephi describe the conditions that would follow the Savior's visit? (1 Nephi 12:11-12; 4 Nephi 1:2-4.)

- What brought about this righteousness and peace? (4 Nephi 1:15.)
- What did Nephi see happening after nearly four generations of righteousness? (1 Nephi 12:12-15)
- What happened as a result of these changes?
- What did Nephi see happening to his descendants in these battles? (1 Nephi 12:19-20.)
- Why were Nephi's descendants overpowered and destroyed? (1 Nephi 12:19.)
- How can pride and the temptations of the devil lead to destruction?

### Nephi sees the formation of the great and abominable church, the colonization of the Americas, the Apostasy, and the Restoration of the gospel. (1 Nephi 13.)

- 1 Nephi 13 is a record of Nephi's vision of the following:
- The formation of the great and abominable church.
  - The discovery and colonization of the Americas.
  - The Apostasy and the loss of many plain and precious parts of the Bible.
  - The coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the Restoration of the gospel.

#### The formation of the great and abominable church

- What did Nephi see formed "among the nations of the Gentiles"? (1 Nephi 13:4-5.)
- Who is the founder of the great and abominable church? (1 Nephi 13:6.)
- What are some of the characteristics of the "great and abominable church"? (1 Nephi 13:5-9.)
- What symbol from the vision of the tree of life corresponds to the great and abominable church? (Compare 1 Nephi 13:5-9 with 1 Nephi 11:35-36.)
- What evidence do you see of the great and abominable church working to destroy the Saints today?
- How can we ensure that we are not deceived by people or organizations that lead people away from God and His laws?

#### The discovery and colonization of the Americas

- Who were the Gentiles who "went forth ... upon the many waters"? (1 Nephi 13:12-13).
- What enabled these explorers and settlers to be successful in their endeavors? (1 Nephi 13:14-19.)
- What role did these early explorers and settlers play

in the Restoration of the gospel? (D&C 101:77-80.)

### The Apostasy and the loss of many plain and precious parts of the Bible

- **What was the book Nephi saw the Gentiles carrying?** (1 Nephi 13:20-23.)
- What did the great and abominable church do to this book? (1 Nephi 13:24-26.) Why? (1 Nephi 13:27.)
- What consequences have resulted from the loss of "many plain and precious things" from the Bible? (1 Nephi 13:29.)

### The coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the Restoration of the gospel

- The Lord knew that the great and abominable church would try to destroy the word of God in the Bible. **How did He ensure that His words would be preserved to come forth in the latter days?** (1 Nephi 13:35-36.)
- What is this record that was kept by Nephi's seed?
- **What are the purposes of the Book of Mormon?** (1 Nephi 13:40-41; also Mormon 7:8-9; D&C 20:8-12.)
- **How have you seen these purposes fulfilled?**
- What are some doctrines that are difficult to understand in the Bible but plain and precious in the Book of Mormon? (Alma 11:42-45, 3 Nephi 11:21-26 and Moroni 8:11-12,)
- **How has the Book of Mormon helped make the Bible more understandable to you or increased your testimony of the Bible?**

### Nephi sees the blessings promised to the faithful; he also sees the destruction of the great and abominable church. (1 Nephi 14)

- Search 1 Nephi 14:1-7 to find the blessings promised to the Gentiles (non-Israelites) if we remain faithful to the Lord.
- Search 1 Nephi 14:1-7 to find the cursings promised to the Gentiles if we harden our hearts and turn away from the Lord.
- **What must we do to soften our hearts so that we can receive these blessings?**
- In what sense are there only two forces in the world today? (1 Nephi 14:10; 10:16.)
- What will eventually happen to the great and

abominable church? (1 Nephi 14:3-4, 15-17; 22:23.)

- How did Nephi see the strength of the members of the Lord's Church would be in the last days?
- **Why were the members of the Lord's Church under persecution by the great and abominable church?**
- What did Nephi see the Saints of God armed with? (1 Nephi 14:14.)
- **How can we be "armed with righteousness and with the power of God"?**

### Conclusion

In 1 Nephi 12-14, Nephi describes his vision of the future of his seed (his descendants) and the seed of

his brothers. Note how some symbols in the vision of the tree of life (the mist of darkness, the great and spacious building, and the river of filthy water) have foreshadowed the downfall of Nephi's seed. Nephi's vision provides an overview of much that has occurred and will yet occur in the history of the earth. It also shows us that we must choose between only two options: **following Jesus Christ or working against Him and thus following Satan.**

The blessings promised in (1 Nephi 14) are available to all of us if we choose to follow Jesus Christ. We must search, ponder and pray about the warnings He has provided so that through the Holy Spirit we will be given the keys to fully understand the signposts to successfully bypass the minefields Satan has placed in our path to destroy us.

Learn what he has given us and use it, then record your testimony as Nephi, John, Enoch, and Joseph Smith and many others have done. **Follow the Master**

